

Broadband Over Powerline - BPL - at least in its present proposed form, should not have made it this far. There is MUCH more at stake than the interference issue for amateur radio operators (hams), but when intelligent folks look at the radio spectrum they see that where BPL would operate there are countless other LICENSED services that will suffer unnecessarily if BPL is implemented. The ARRL's tests have PROVEN this beyond any doubt.

Even the outrageous idea of putting even low power RF energy into overhead power lines (regardless if it's in an urban or rural setting) is by itself unthinkable. Here you have an electrical delivery system that's noisy enough in many cases (hence all the articles and books on solving interference problems), but if implemented as the industry (and apparently the Commission) desire, noise from a leaky powerline insulator or lightning arrestor will most certainly be overridden by BPL hash.

I always like putting issues such as this into the lowest common denominator: Suppose an individual were operating a Part 15 radio device and interfered with a licensed (or other) service - there'd be no question they'd be shut down immediately, and for good reason.

Problem is that not until there's a major disaster directly related to BPL interference (a cop in the field not being able to hear his or her dispatcher because of BPL interference, or an aircraft (military or civilian, large or small) not hearing the final approach communications from the tower, or even a ham operator not hearing the faint "mayday" calls from a sinking vessel, will the public stand up and take notice. TODAY we have a chance - tomorrow could be too late.